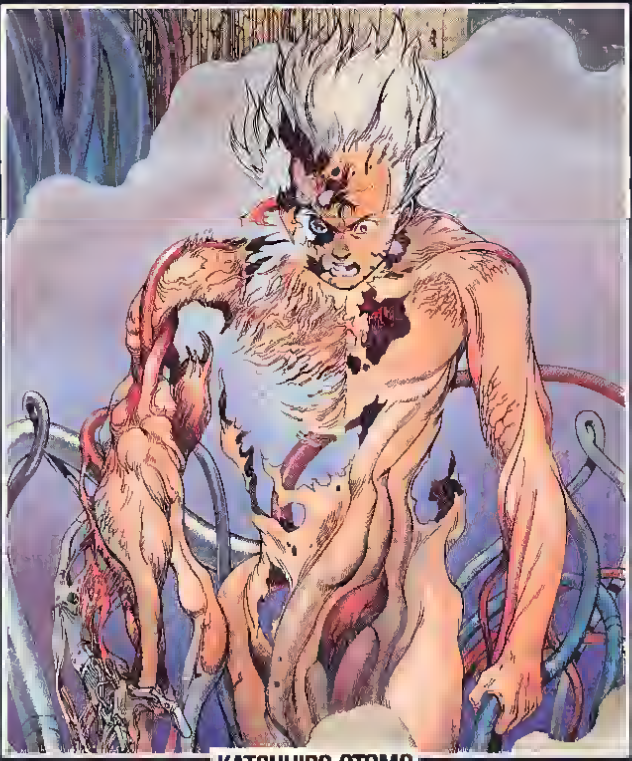
AKIRA

30™



KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 30

ARMS RACE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

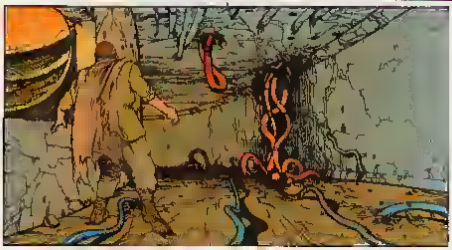
2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay, Ryu,** and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

Under his control the **Colonel** had a number of psychic children, each one identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27—and the blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—who once led the resistance and now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tetsuo,** once Kaneda's friend, now his greatest enemy. **Tetsuo** was crippled by a laser blast from the military satellite SOL, which the **Colonel** controlled and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic left arm.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in a cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, when with a mental blast, he started the Third World War. He was recently reawakened by the jealous and ambitious **Tetsuo,** and shortly thereafter he responded to an emotional trauma by again devastating the reconstructed city of Neo-Tokyo. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency, with the forces of the army and the resistance scattered, the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrolling the streets, and new powers and allegiances arising within.

In the western part of the Neo-Tokyo, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing

Kiyoko | Kaori | The Colonel | Kai



their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. To increase the empire's power, **Tetsuo** uses drugs and training to develop psychic abilities in some of their subjects. Most faithful among their numerous followers is Tetsuo's aide who is determined at all costs to destroy **Lady Miyako,** who offers sanctuary to anyone who comes to her eastern shrine.

The Empire is infiltrated by teams of spies from the outside world, but all of them except **Lieutenant Yamada**—who takes temporary shelter with **Ryu**—are killed. **Ryu** wants to join with and help **Yamada,** but soon after **Tetsuo** meets the pair and reveals that **Yamada** has come to kill **Akira,** the spy decides to separate from his persistent would-be ally and go his own way.

The **Colonel** is wounded living in hiding with one of his scientists, determined to kill **Tetsuo** to atone for what he has brought about. He believes **Tetsuo** could become another **Akira**. However, military forces outside Neo-Tokyo are trying by computer to wrestle control of SOL from him. At the same time, **Tetsuo,** acting upon advice from **Lady Miyako,** is trying to master his own weaknesses.

Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists studying the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A** — are aghast to learn that, despite their recommendations, the world's armies have amassed an **Akira Assassination Corps,** and are even more upset by the knowledge that the young and dedicated soldiers are sure to be slaughtered by the

Chiyoko Ryu Joker Lt. Yamada

inconceivable might of their enemy. The admiral commanding the ship scoffs when the scientists tell him that **Tetsuo** has teleported aboard to taunt his "fan club", refusing to be convinced even by the telekinetic havoc, death and injury the boy left in his wake. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons**—leaves the ship without authorization, hoping desperately to implant a secret plan.

Meanwhile, **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** try to convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**. Even though **Kay** lacks native psychic abilities, she is a powerful medium through whom the others could project their powers and strike as one. **Lady Miyako** explains that Akira's personality has been destroyed by his power, leaving him a passive vessel, and that when Tetsuo's character is likewise eroded, he too will be beyond control. **Kay** considers Tetsuo's most recent action—destroying part of the moon and setting off geological cataclysms on earth merely to impress his and Akira's followers—and she agrees to be purified and join the others.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker** — a friend and a rival from his gang days—is outraged to learn of the risk **Miyako** has talked **Kay** into taking. He vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let her face such danger. Then, at long last, he kisses **Kay** and promises her that they'll spend the night together when they next meet. **Kaneda, Kai** and **Joker** formulate a strategy involving most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot.

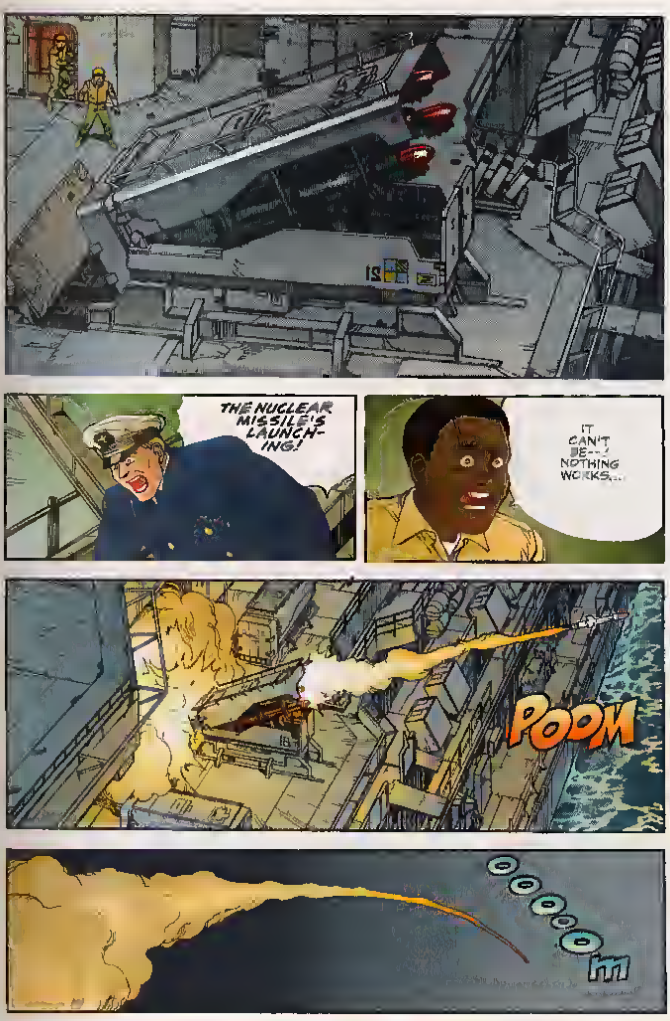
Following his huge expenditure of power, **Tetsuo** begins to lose control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing any of his followers who comes too close, until **Kaori** is able to calm him. After a brief encounter with the **Colonel**, **Tetsuo** again teleports to the ship, where **Karma Tangi**—a wise and sensitive monk—warns him that his power has grown beyond what his body can contain and that it is now trying to absorb its very surroundings. Fearing for his ship, the admiral shoots the boy through the heart — and **Tetsuo** departs laughing madly.

Kay Akira Tetsuo Masaru

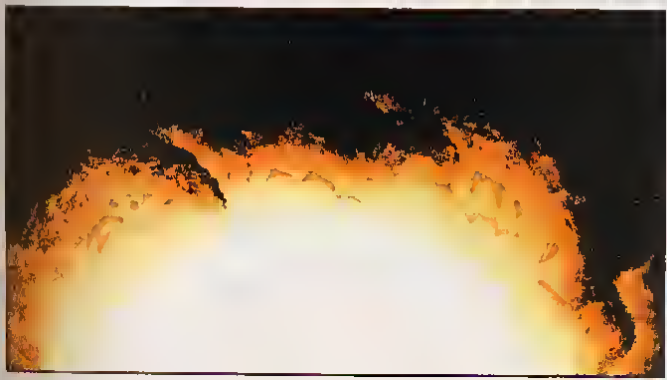
FWOOK
AAUGH!
IS HE RETREATING?!
NO!
HE'S STILL HERE!
GAGIIIN
OHH--!
THE SHIP--!

GIIIN
IT'S STOPPED...
EMERGENCY ALERT! ADMIRAL, WE'VE LOST CONTROL OF THE SHIP! SHE'S NOT RESPONDING!
bip
shhmm
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? MAKE A FULL REPORT!
beep
beep
shhum
NOW WE ARE WITHIN HIM...
GONGONG
21

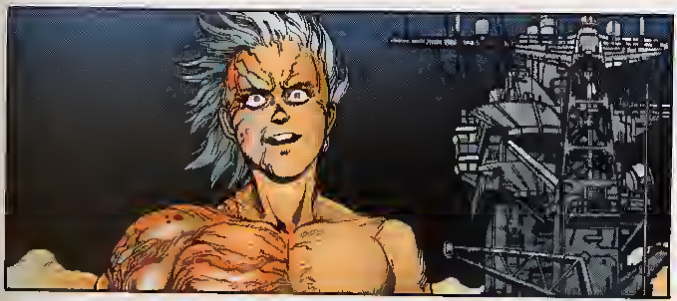
STAY HERE, I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN.
ADMIRAL...
.....
KZZT
EH--?
WHAT IS THIS?!


THE NUCLEAR MISSILE'S LAUNCH-ING!
IT CAN'T BE--! NOTHING WORKS...
POOM
OOOOOm

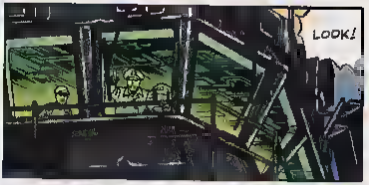
YAAUGH!

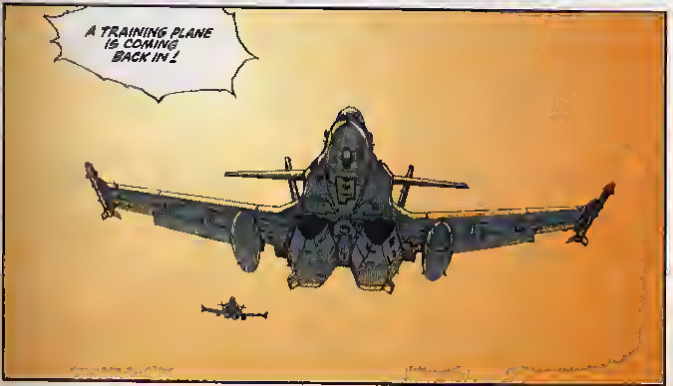


GONGONGONG

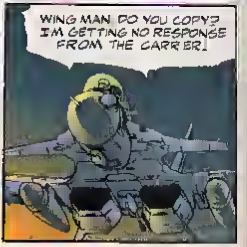


Gooong


LOOK!

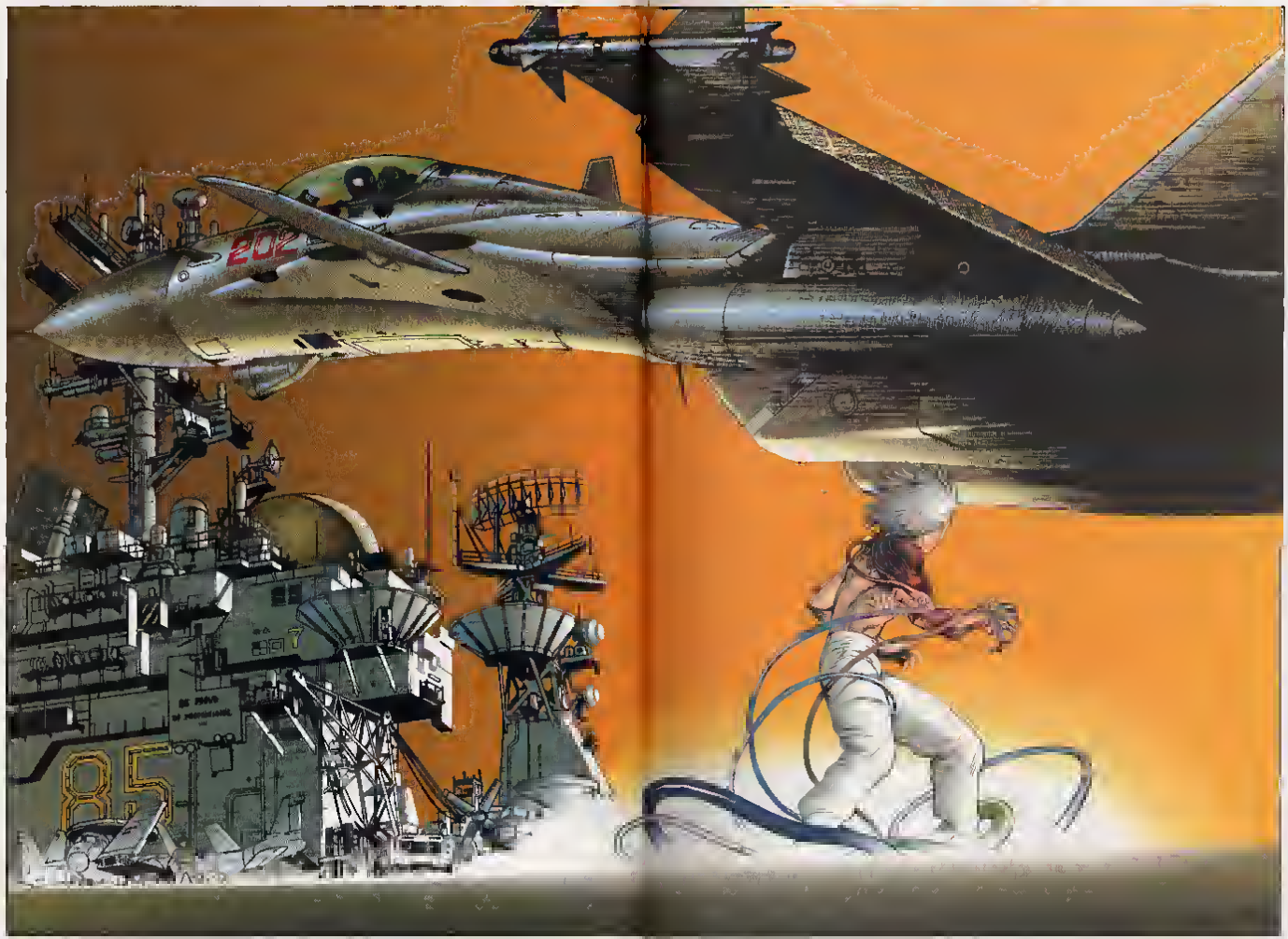

A TRAINING PLANE IS COMING BACK IN!

WHAT IN...?!

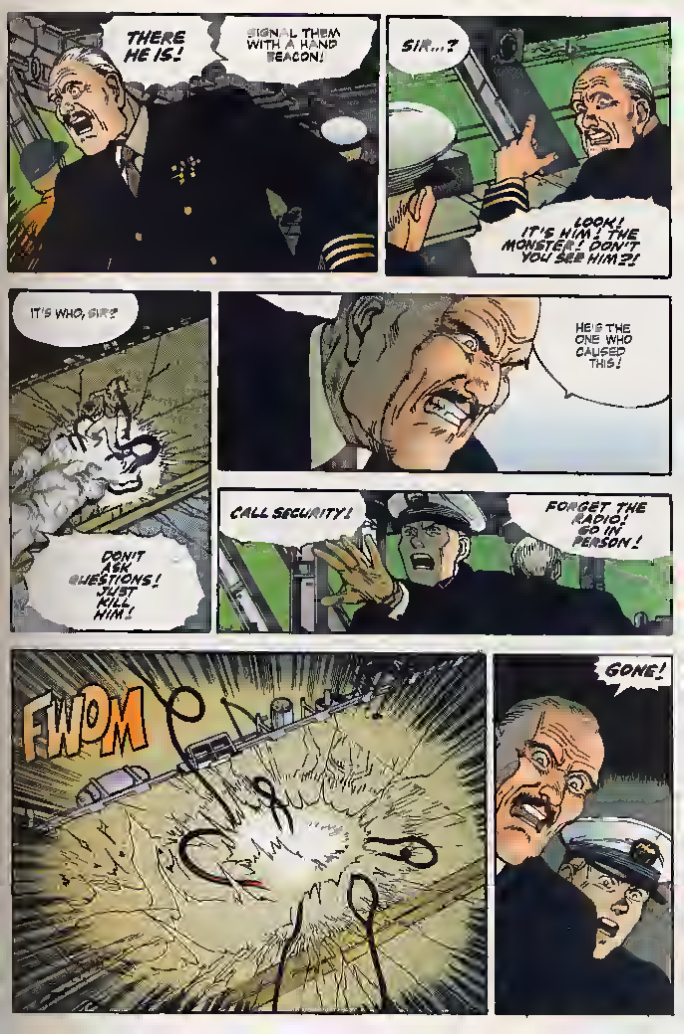

WING MAN, DO YOU COPY? I'M GETTING NO RESPONSE FROM THE CARRIER!

THERE ARE NO READINGS ON EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES!
WHAT IN HELL HAPPENED TO
BETTER CALL OKINAWA

KON KON KON
ADMIRAL!
WHY DID YOU STOP THE SHIP?
THAT MONSTER...
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP SIR! ALL SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN SIMULTANEOUSLY.
TRAINING PLANES ON FINAL APPROACH, SIR!

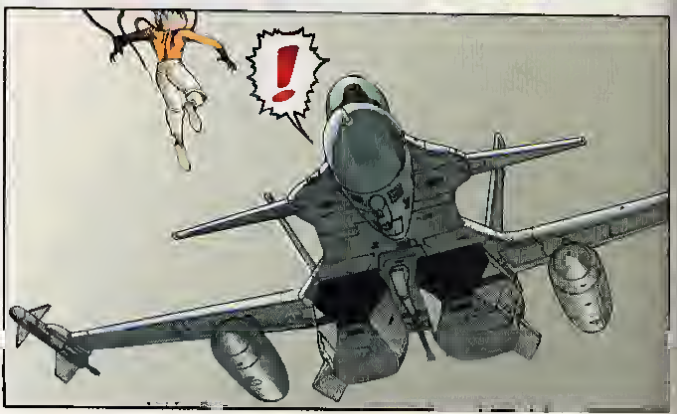

202
85

GONGONGONG
SOF
NOTHING UNUSUAL ON DECK.
...MEHOE...


THERE HE IS!
SIGNAL THEM WITH A HAND BEACON!
SIR...?
LOOK! IT'S HIM! THE MONSTER! DON'T YOU SEE HIM?!
IT'S WHO, SIR?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! JUST KILL HIM!
HE'S THE ONE WHO CAUSED THIS!
CALL SECURITY!
FORGET THE RADIO! GO IN PERSON!
FWOM
GONE!

THIS IS USELESS. LET'S HEAD FOR OKINAWA.

HUNH?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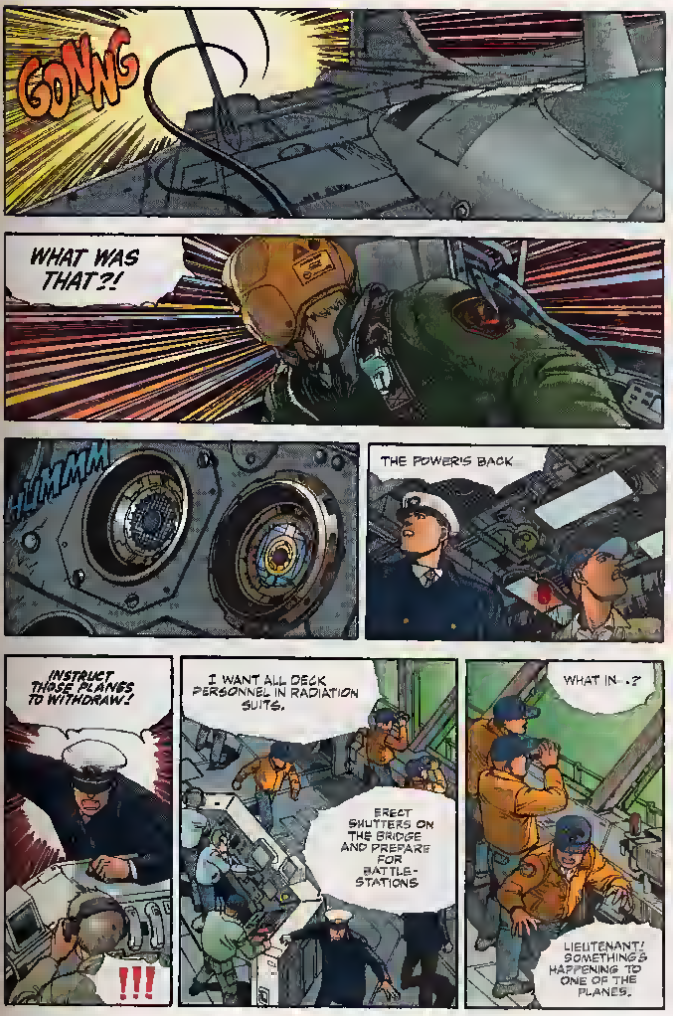
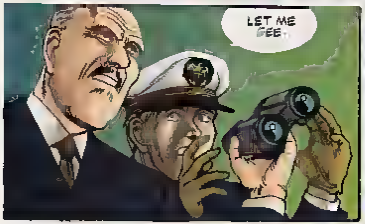

GONNG
WHAT WAS THAT?!
HUMMM
THE POWER'S BACK
INSTRUCT THOSE PLANES TO WITHDRAW!
!!!
I WANT ALL DECK PERSONNEL IN RADIATION SUITS.
ERECT SHUTTERS ON THE BRIDGE AND PREPARE FOR BATTLE-STATIONS
WHAT IN...?
LIEUTENANT! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING TO ONE OF THE PLANES.

WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

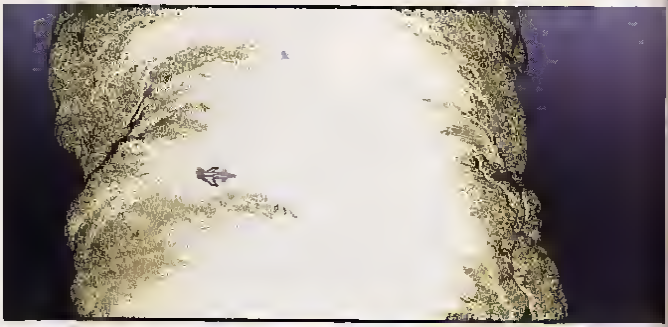
THE CONFIGURATION, SIR. IT'S ALTERING.

WHAT?!

IMPOSSIBLE!

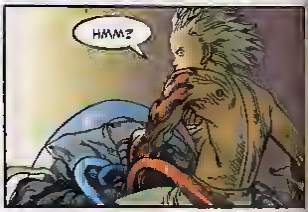

LET ME SEE.

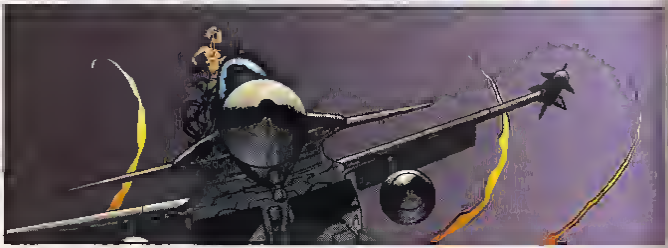
THAT BASTARD!
NO WONDER WE REGAINED CONTROL OF THE SHIP!
2
ATTACK AT ONCE!
ATTACK WHAT SIR?
THE PLANE, OF COURSE! LAUNCH MISSILES AND BLOW IT OUT OF THE SKY!
IT'S OUR PLANE, SIR... JUST BACK FROM TRAINING ...
BUT THE PILOT...
WE CAN'T RADIO AND WARN HIM, SO HIS ONLY HOPE IS TO EJECT BEFORE THE MISSILES STRIKE
THAT PLANE IS POSSESSED!
I'LL ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT'S DESTRUC-TION!

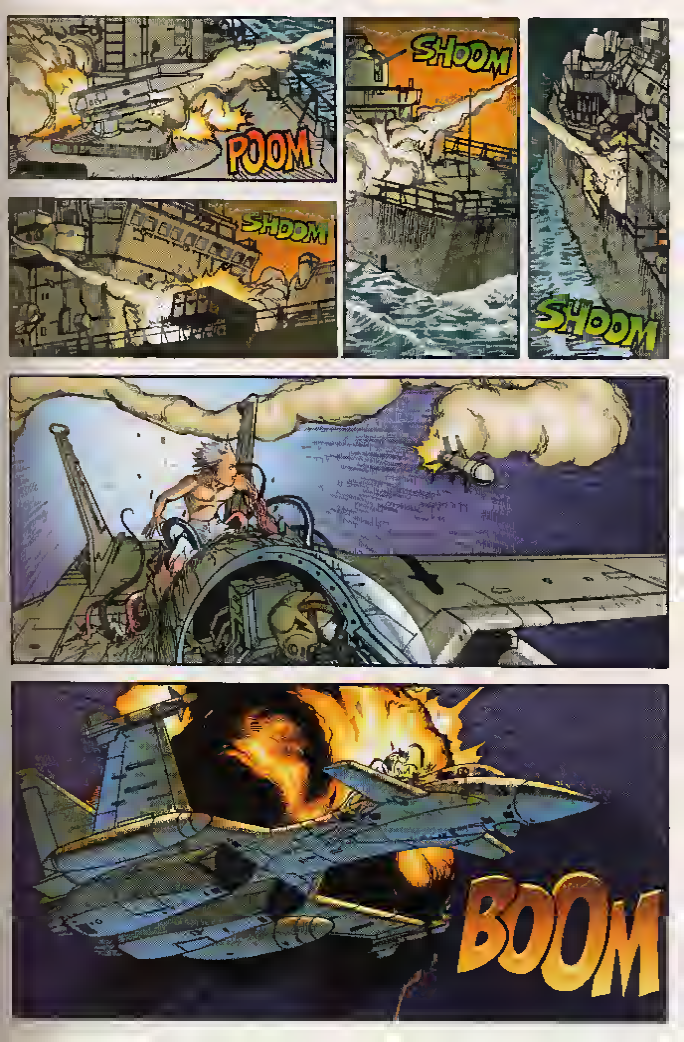


A-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!

WHY THE HELL WON'T THESE CONTROLS RESPOND?!


HMM?

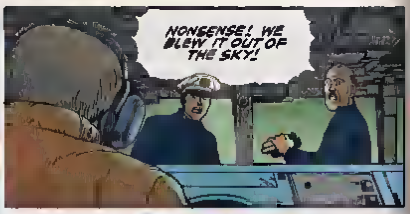



POOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
SHOOM
BOOM

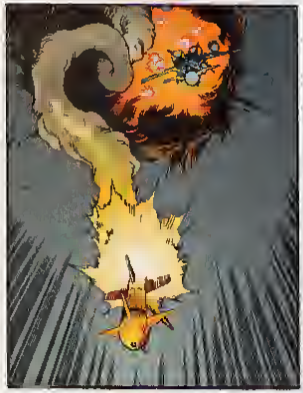
AAIEEE!
BOOM

COMIN' RIGHT BACK ATCHA!

LIEUTENANT! THE PLANE IS TURNING ON US!

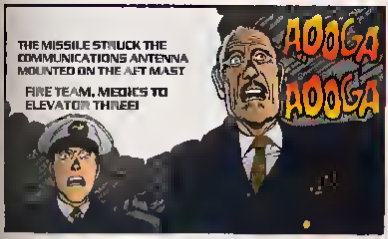

NONSENSE! WE BLEW IT OUT OF THE SKY!

SHWUP



BOO OM

MISSILE APPROACH-ING!

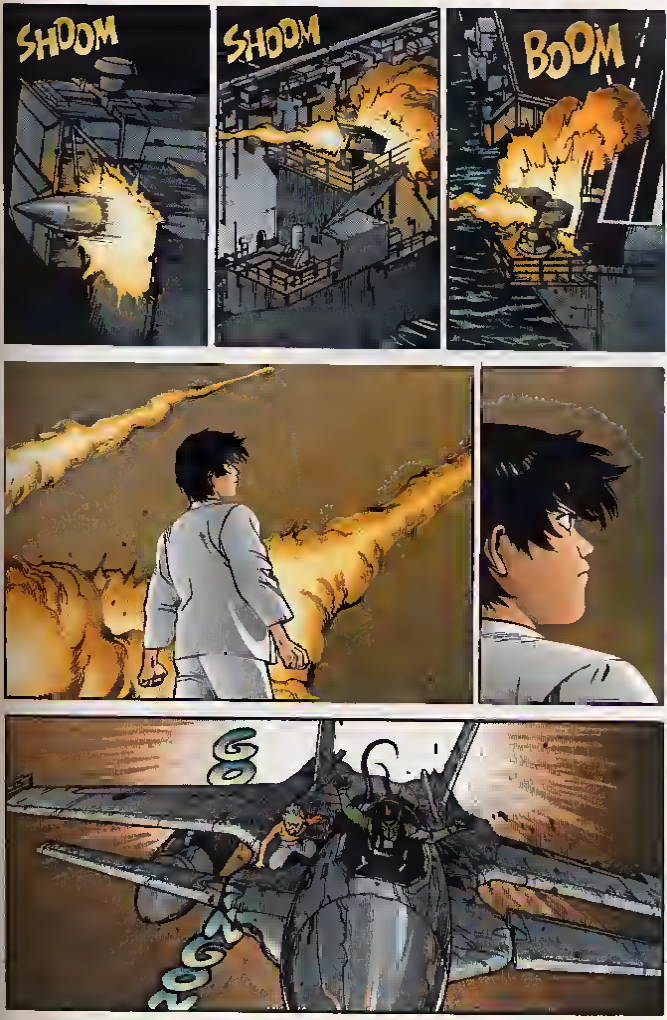

THE MISSILE STRUCK THE COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNA MOUNTED ON THE AFT MAST
FIRE TEAM, MEDICS TO ELEVATOR THREE!
AOOGA
AOOGA

AOOGA
AOOGA

RRUMBLE

FIRE! DON'T HOLD BACK!
USE EVERY-THING WE'VE GOT!
GET ME THE OPS ROOM!

FIRE ON DECK! FIRE ON DECK!
WATCH OUT! IT'S SPREADING!
hmmm
TAK


SHOOM
SHOOM
BOOM
GO
GO

202
IT'S HEADING RIGHT FOR US!
WAH-HOOO!

VVT
VVT
VVT
!
BOOM

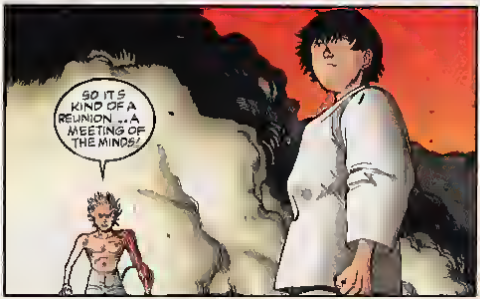
AGHK!
KRAK
WHOK
WHOOM

YOU'RE KAY... AREN'T YOU...?
HE'S ALMOST COMPLETELY DESTROYED
WHAT REMAINS OF HIS PERSONALITY IS BARELY ANCHORED TO HIS POWER
WHAT A PITY

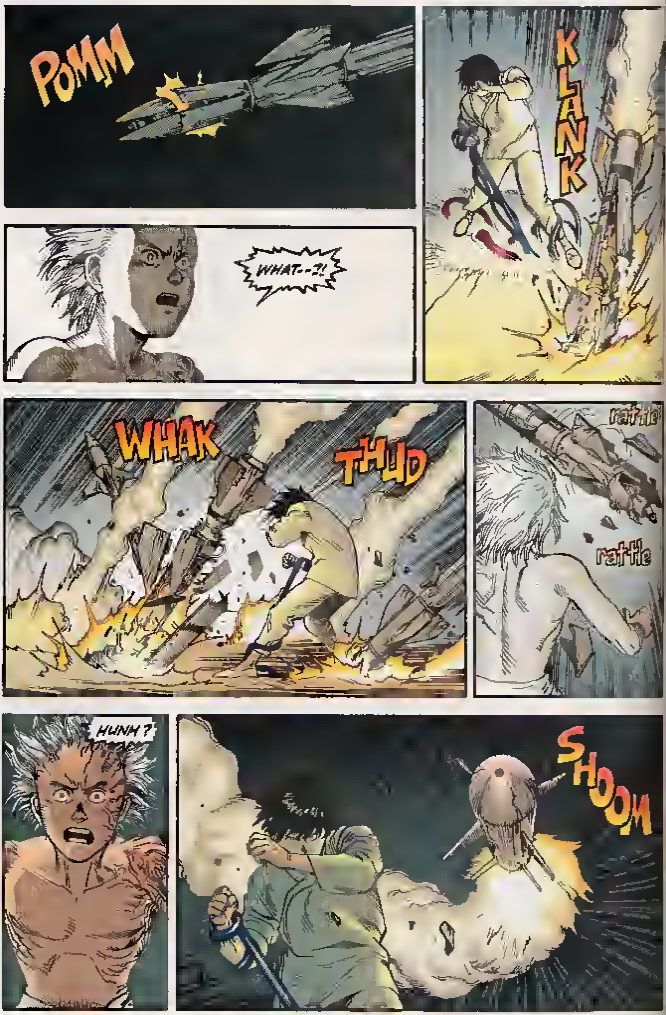
HMM...

THIS IS A SURPRISE!
EVEN THE OLD BITCH MIYAKO IS IN THERE WITH THEM, HUNH?

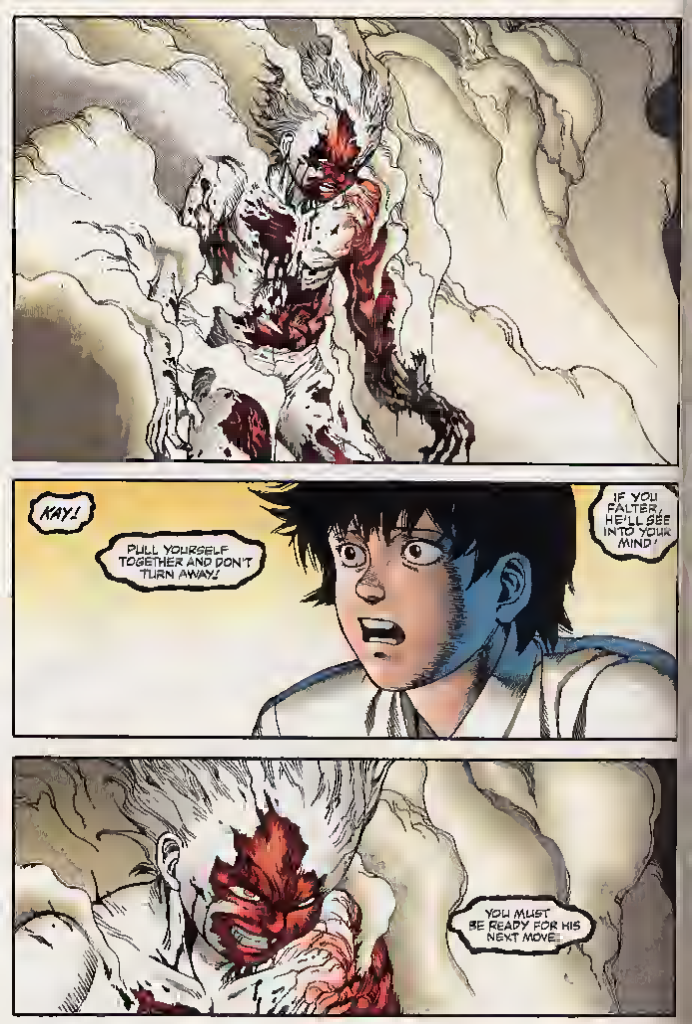
BEWARE! HE SEEKS AN OPENING THROUGH WHICH TO ATTACK!
WHAT...?!


SO IT'S KIND OF A REUNION... A MEETING OF THE MINDS!

THIS IS THE WRONG PLACE FOR A SHOWDOWN. TOO MANY INNOCENT PEOPLE COULD BE HURT.
YEEK--!
COMPOSE YOUR THOUGHTS, KAY!
YOU MUSTN'T YIELD TO PANIC
BETTER MOVE IT. THERE'S A MISSILE HEADING YOUR WAY.


POMM
KLANK
WHAT--?!
WHAK
THUD
rattle
rattle
HUNH?
SHOOM

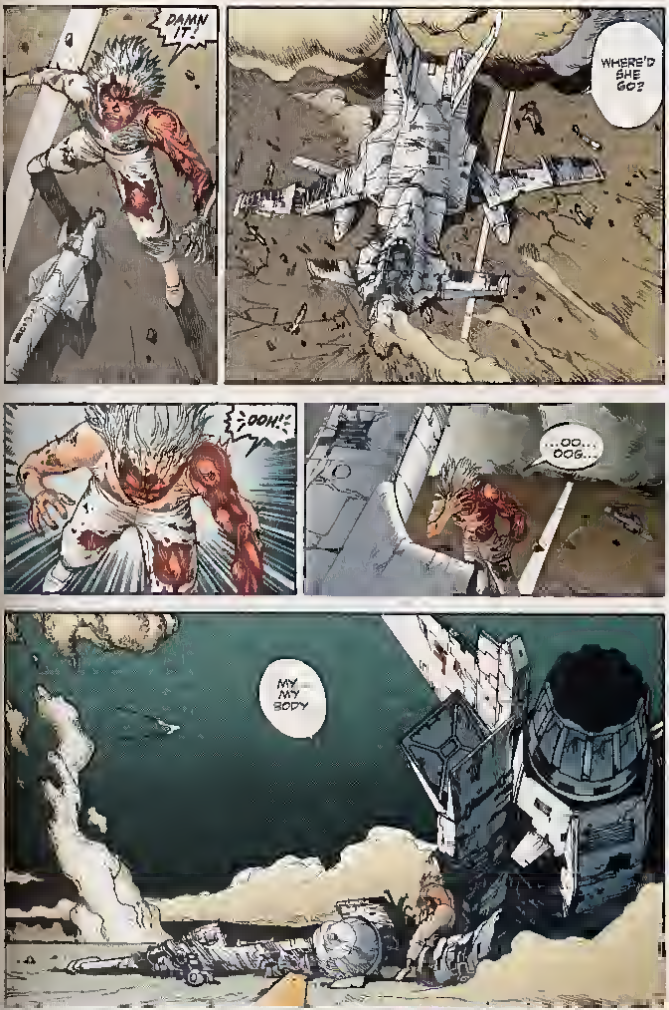
BOOM
TETSUOOO!
CALM YOURSELF
B-BUT...
CONFUSION COULD BE FATAL!

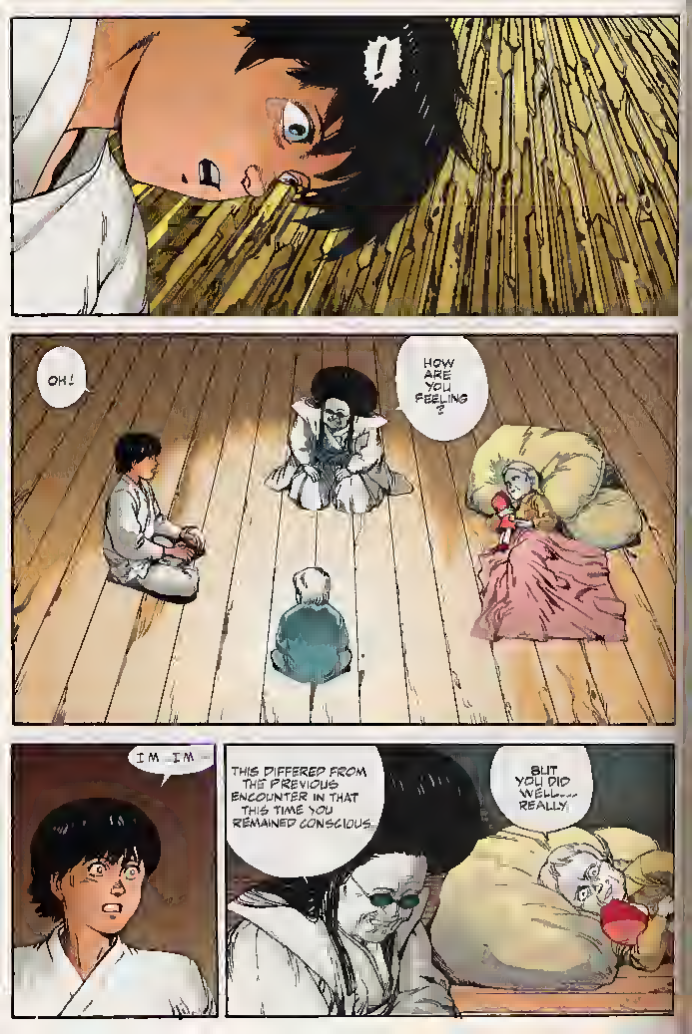

KAY!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER AND DON'T TURN AWAY!
IF YOU FALTER, HE'LL SEE INTO YOUR MIND!
YOU MUST BE READY FOR HIS NEXT MOVE...

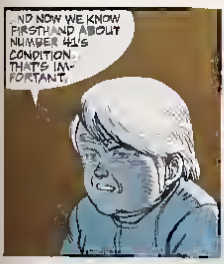
AHH--!

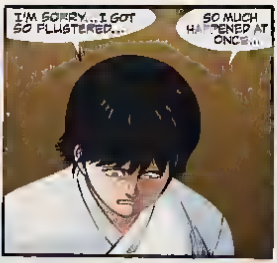
DIIIEEE!
SHRONK

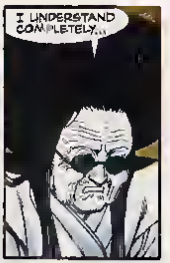
YEEEP!!
HWOMM
HUNH?

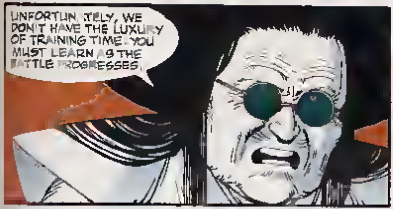

DAMN IT.
WHERE'D SHE GO?
OOH!
...OO... OOG...
MY MY BODY

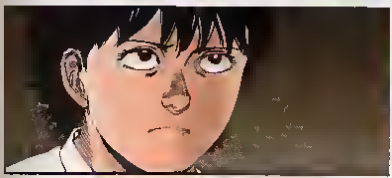

OH!
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I M ... I M ...
THIS DIFFERED FROM THE PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER IN THAT THIS TIME YOU REMAINED CONSCIOUS.
BUT YOU DID WELL... REALLY

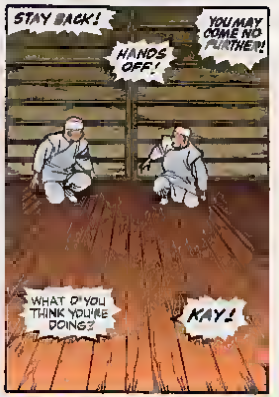

ND NOW WE KNOW FIRSTHAND ABOUT NUMBER 41's CONDITION. THAT'S IM-PORTANT.


I'M SORRY... I GOT SO FLUSTERED...
SO MUCH HA PENED AT ONCE...

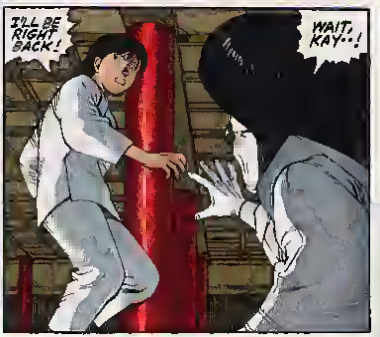

I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY...


UNFORTUN TELY, WE DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF TRAINING TIME. YOU MUST LEARN AS THE BATTLE PROGRESSES.

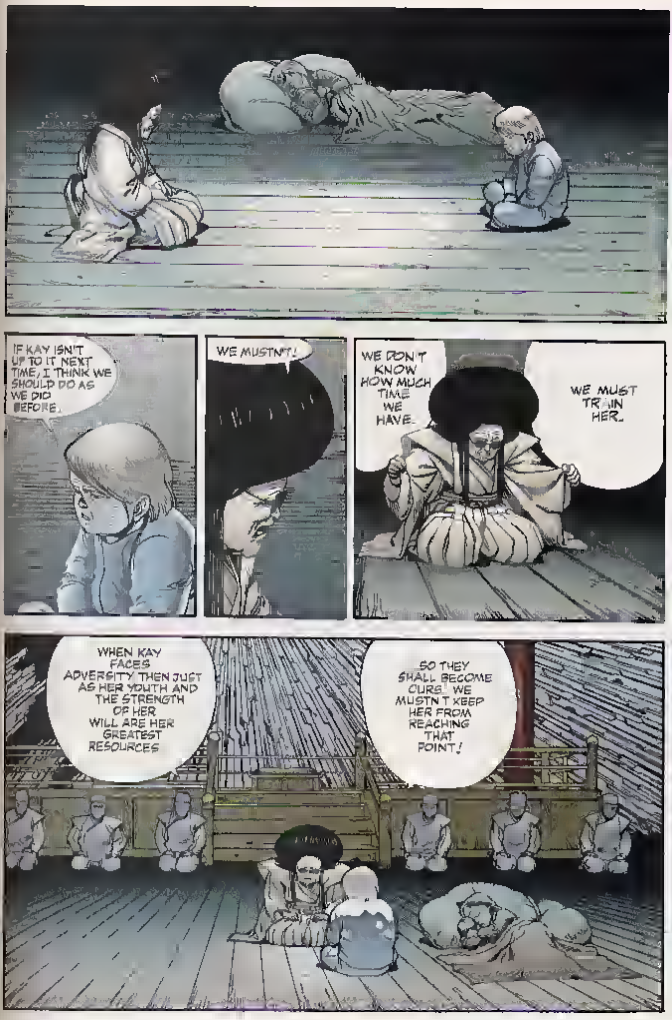


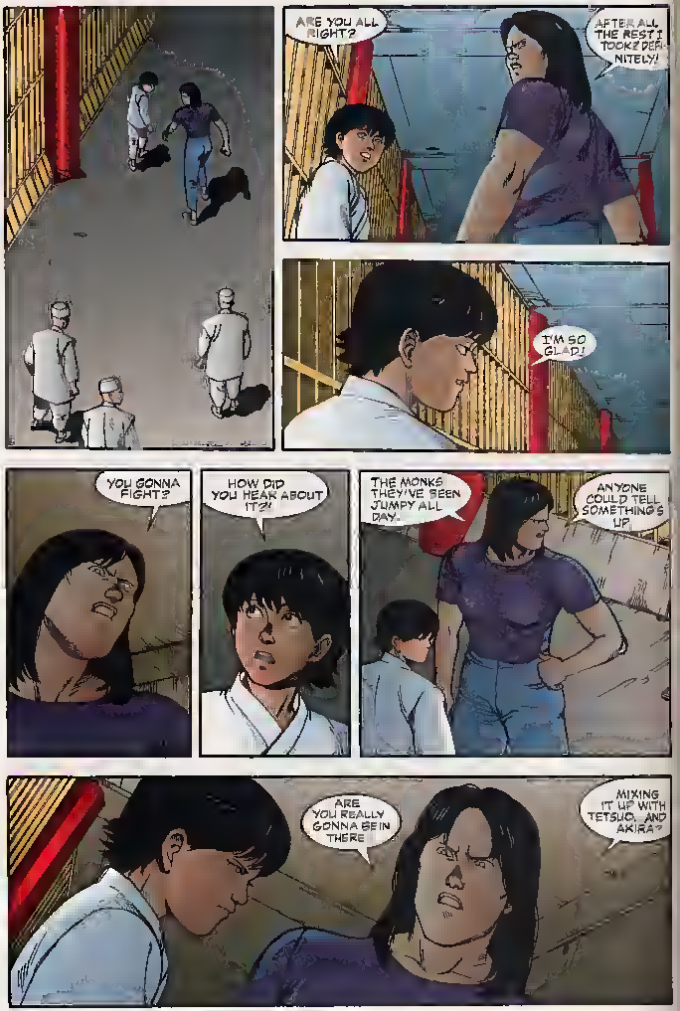

STAY BACK!
YOU MAY COME NO FURTHER!
HANDS OFF!
WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
KAY!

NOW WHAT?!
CHIYOKO?


I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
WAIT, KAY..!

KAY!!
CHIYOKO!

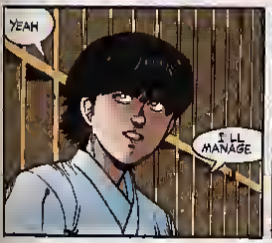

IF KAY ISN'T UP TO IT NEXT TIME, I THINK WE SHOULD DO AS WE DID BEFORE.
WE MUSTN'T!
WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE.
WE MUST TRAIN HER.
WHEN KAY FACES ADVERSITY, THEN JUST AS HER YOUTH AND THE STRENGTH OF HER WILL ARE HER GREATEST RESOURCES
SO THEY SHALL BECOME OURS. WE MUSTN'T KEEP HER FROM REACHING THAT POINT!


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
AFTER ALL THE REST I TOOK FOR YA, NITEL!
I'M SO GLAD!
YOU GONNA FIGHT?
HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?
THE MONKS THEY'VE SEEN JUMPY ALL DAY..
ANYONE COULD TELL SOMETHING'S UP
ARE YOU REALLY GONNA BE IN THERE
MIXING IT UP WITH TETSUO AND AKIRA?

I HAVE TO.

NOW'S THE TIME... TETSUO'S POWER IS REACHING ITS PEAK...
...AND THEY NEED ME.

WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?


YEAH
I'LL MANAGE

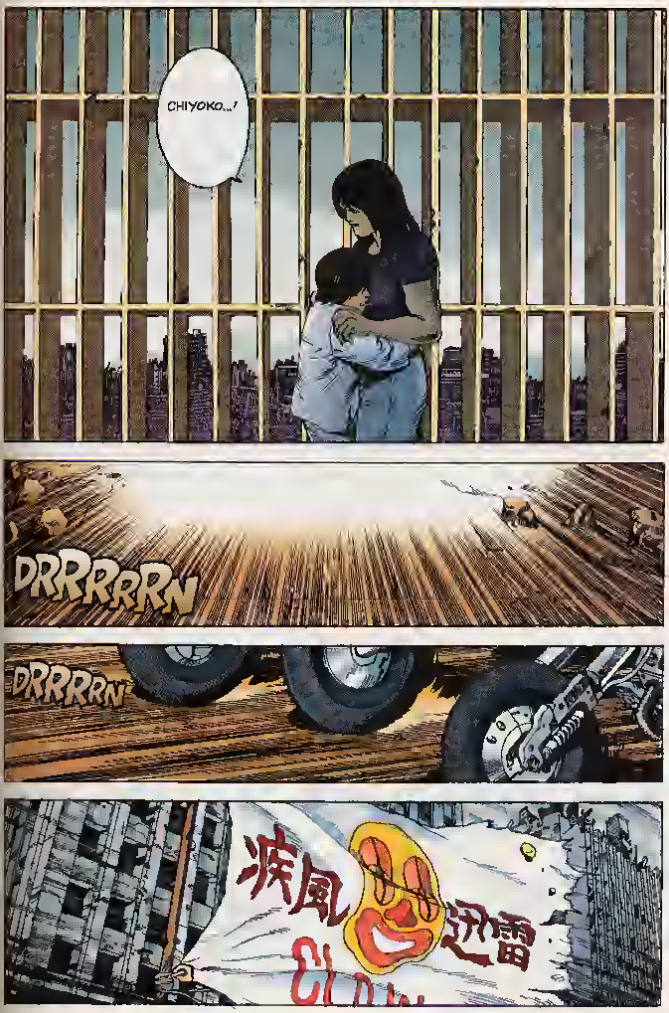
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?

HELP KANEDA
...AND HIS FRIENDS. THEY NEED YOU.

KANEDA'S PUSHING THEM TO TRY AND KILL TETSUO BEFORE WE CAN

HE'S SO RECK-LESS.

STAY ALIVE
HUH?
Thwp
THE FUTURE IS YOURS
IT BELONGS TO YOU AND YOUR KIDS. BE SURE AN HAVE CHILDREN
O-OKAY.
YOU'VE GOT TO!


CHIYOKO...!
DRRRRRRN
DRRRRRN
疾風
迅雷

DRRR RR RRRN

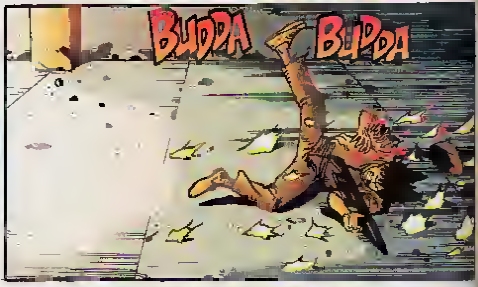
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO JOKER...
HE'S PROBABLY A GREASE SPOT AGAINST THE SIDE OF SOME BUILDING BY NOW.
YAAIEE--!
DAMN THIS THING!
HUNH?
HEY! THERE'S THE STADIUM!

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

DAMN!

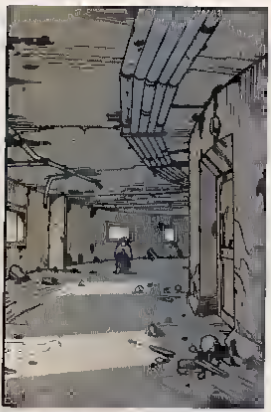
TOKATOK
TAK

TOKATOK
!


BUDDA BUDDA

HOLD YOUR FIRE

OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE IS AKIRA'S ROOM..



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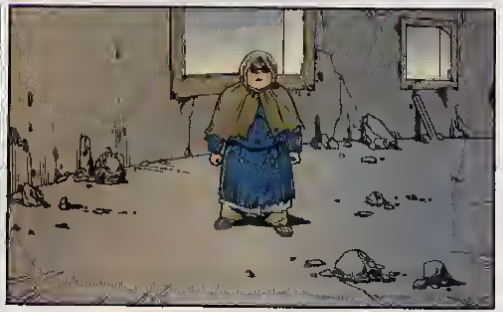
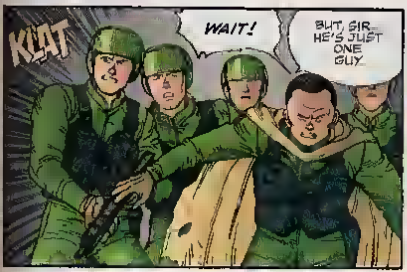
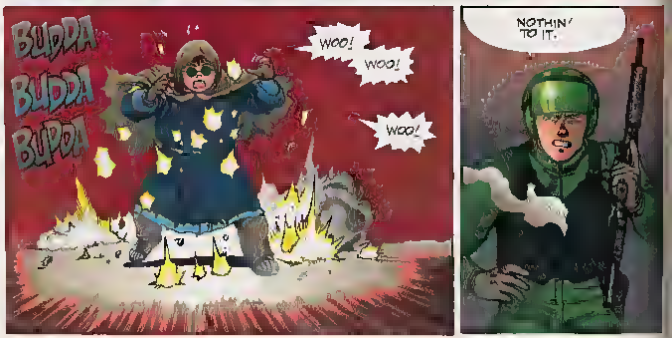


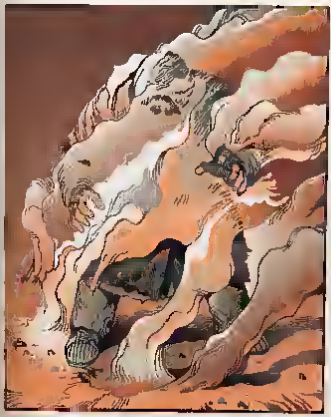

KLAT
WAIT!
BUT, SIR.. HE'S JUST ONE GUY..

THIS GUY'S DIFFERENT FROM THE REST..

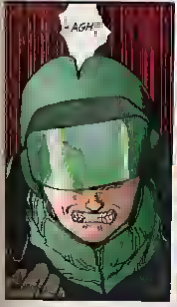
I'M THE EGGPLANT MAN, AND THE BIRDMAN...
HE WAS MY FRIEND AN YOU KILLED HIM. I CAN'T FORGIVE THAT.

LIEUTENANT! WE'VE GOTTA GET HIM BEFORE THE OTHERS ARRIVE.
OKAY... ON MY ORDER...
FIRE!

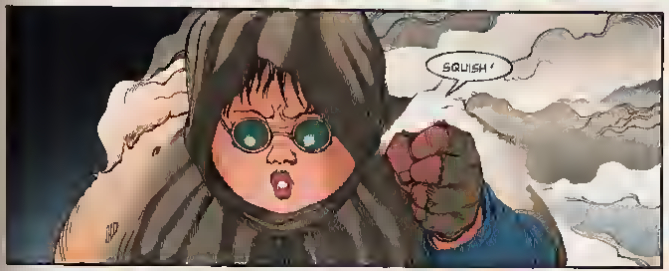

BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
WOO!
WOO!
WOO!
NOTHIN' TO IT.

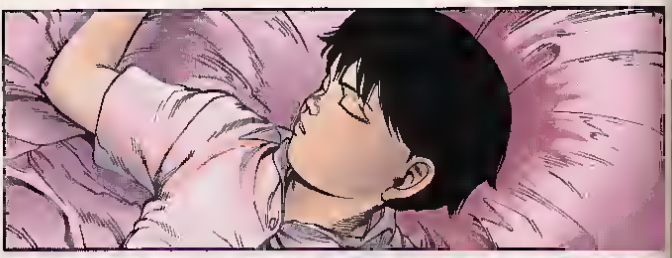


HUNH?


AGH!

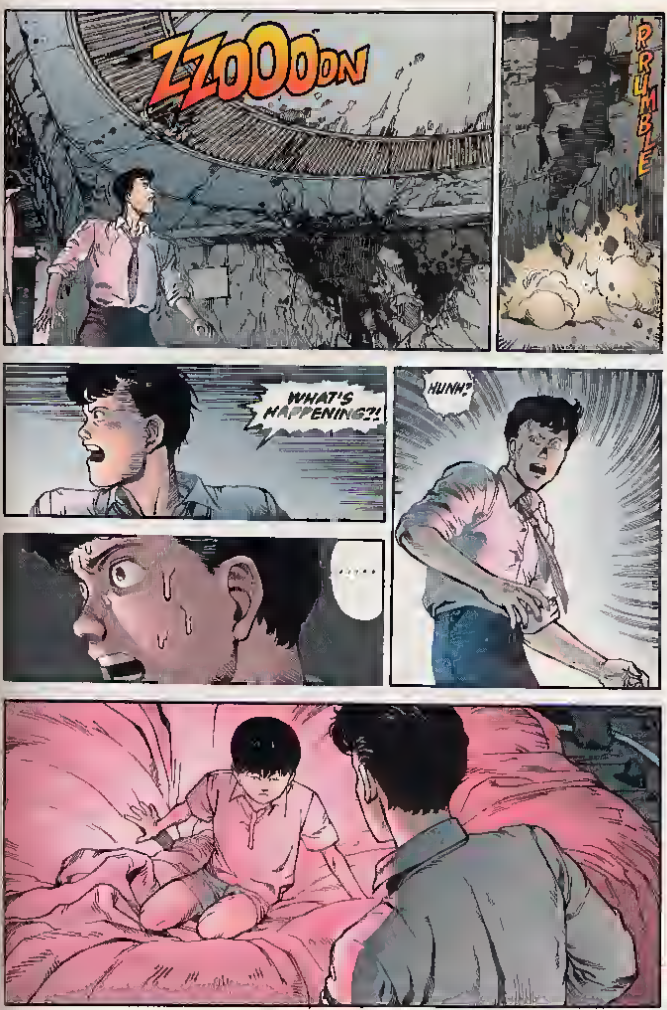
WHAT IS IT?
M MY HEART!

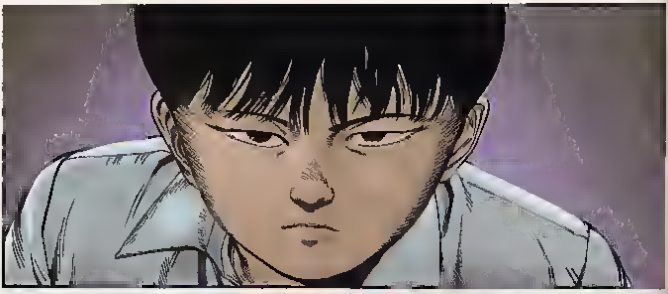

SQUISH!



LOOKS LIKE MY LUCK'S FINALLY RUN OUT. AFTER I'D COME SO FAR
TOOK A KID--THIS KID--FROM THE RUBBLE WHERE HE WAS PLAYING. MAKE HIM DEPEND ON ME... SET HIM ON A THRONE!

SIGHS
I'M NOT GONNA JUST SIT AROUND AND LET IT ALL END!

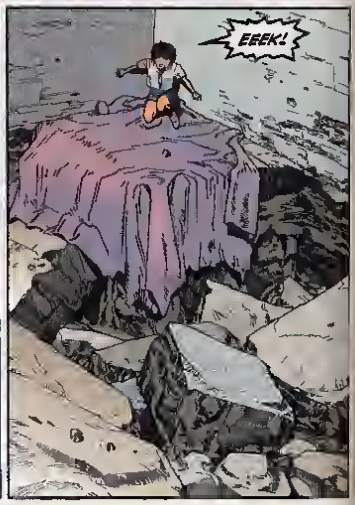

ZZOOOON
RRUMBLE
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
HUNH?
.....

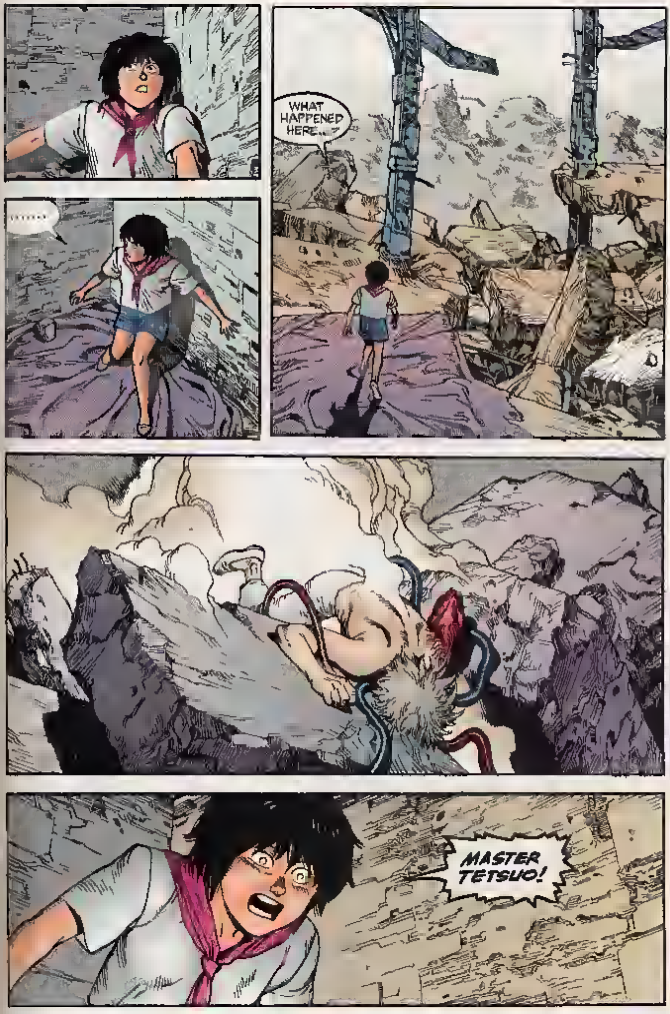


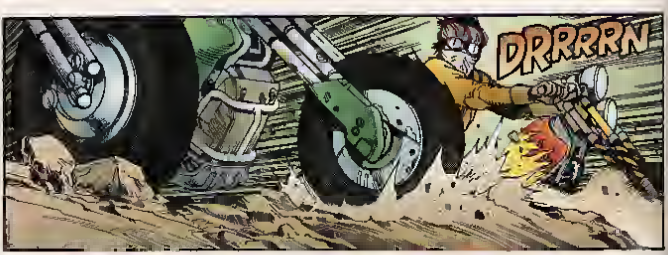
OH...

MASTER
TE--

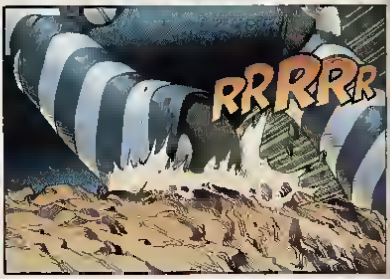
--EH?!

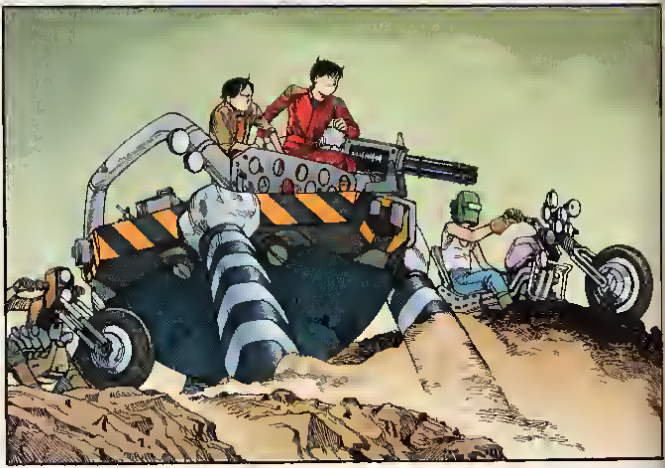

EEEK!

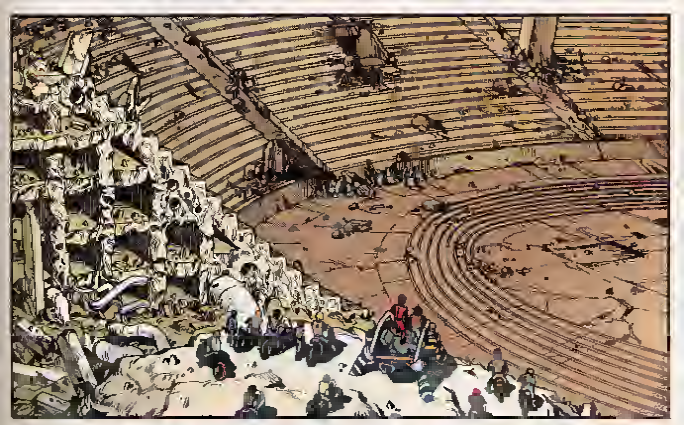

WHAT HAPPENED HERE...?
.....
MASTER TETSUO!

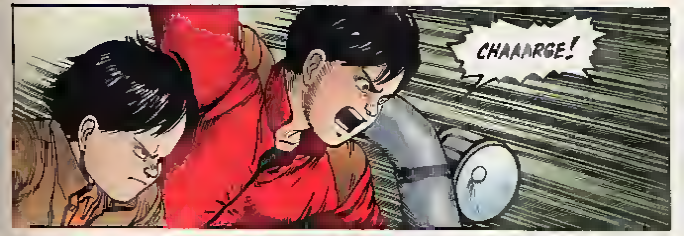

DRRRRN

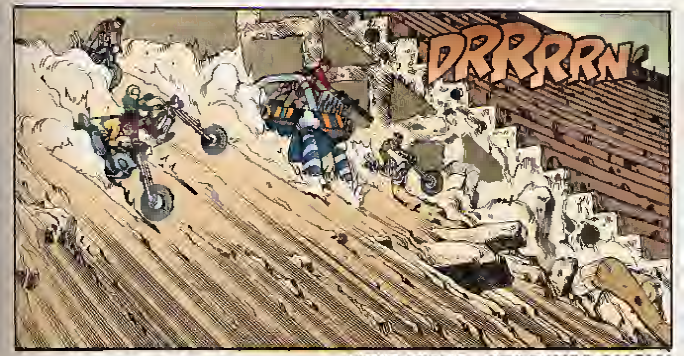
RRRRRN


RRRRR









NEXT ISSUE: **STADIUM SHOW**

AKIRA: the movie
AN UPDATE

Akira, the animated movie, opened around the U.S. and Canada last year and is currently enjoying a second run in many theaters. In addition, a second version of the film, in Japanese with subtitles instead of the commonly seen English-dubbed version, has played in New York.

The film has received acclaim from both critics and the movie-going public, and has spawned the release of two videocassettes and a soundtrack. One videocassette is English dubbed version of **Akira** that was released by Streamline Pictures in January of this year on VHS. The other videocassette is the **Akira Production Report**. It contains information on the creation and production of the **Akira** film. The soundtrack is available in two formats on JVC compact disc. One soundtrack has dialogue, while the other is a "symphonic suite." It is a recording of the music only.

The "symphonic suite" CD comes with a 12-page English booklet containing articles written by Katsuhiro Otomo and musicians Shoji Yamashiro and Kayoko Ohinata.

In the booklet, the musicians discuss their approaches to the soundtrack and the various instruments they utilized. In addition, each track is discussed individually.

All three products are pictured above and are available in comic stores.

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Things are not what they seem

A massive warship transforms into an almost living thing swallowing its crew and turning its terrible weapons of destruction against itself A young boy named Tetsuo is horribly remade in flesh and mind by a power older than time And an innocent girl named Kay plays host to a triumvirate of beings within her wise and awesome forces that are the only hope of stopping the madness

Things are not what the seem in Neo Tokyo as reality itself hangs by a thread

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

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I buy um

I preserve um